(SUBMIT IN DUPLICATE)

TO

MONTANA BOARD OF OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION 2535 ST. JOHNS AVENUE BILLINGS, MONTANA 59102



JAN - 9 2019

REQUEST FOR TRADE SECRET EXEMPTION

MONTANA BOARD OF OIL &

1.	Classification of Requesting Party ☐ Operator
2.	Full name of the Owner, Operator, or Service Company Rockwater Energy Solutions, Inc.
3.	Address 515 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 200 Houston, TX 77027 713-235-9564 gruff@rockwaterenerty.com (Address) (City) (State) (Zip Code) (Telephone Number)
4.	82-10-603, MCA requires that an owner, operator, or service company provide the complete disclosure of fracturing fluid. This must include the chemical compound name and the chemical abstracts service (CAS) registry number of the ingredients, including any hazardous components listed on a material safety data sheet as defined in 50-78-102, MCA, the product name, and the type of additive used. In limited situation the identity of the components of the fracturing fluid may be exempt from public disclosure as a "trade secret" under the criteria in 30-14-402, MCA.
	I am requesting that the identity of a fracturing fluid component qualify for non-disclosure as a trade secret. Chemical Family associated with the Chemical Constituent Alcohol MS-1000
	In order to claim that the identity of the fracturing fluid component is entitled to protection as a trade secret, I understand that I must provide specific information regarding each of the questions set forth in the MBOGC Trade Secret Guidelines. I have attached separate pages setting forth information in response to the questions set forth in the Guidelines.
	CERTIFICATE
	I declare under penalties of perjury that this request and supporting information have been examined by me and to the best of my knowledge are true, correct and complete. Signature Greg Ruff, Manager of Environmental Compliance Print name and title
	APPROVED: Yes □ No Signature Title Date

TO

MONTANA BOARD OF OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION 2535 ST. JOHNS AVENUE BILLINGS, MONTANA 59102

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	I am requesting that the identity of a fracturing fluid component qualify for non-disclosure as a trade secret. Chemical Family associated with the Chemical Constituent Sodium salt MS-1000
	In order to claim that the identity of the fracturing fluid component is entitled to protection as a trade secret, I understand that I must provide specific information regarding each of the questions set forth in the MBOGC Trade Secret Guidelines. I have attached separate pages setting forth information in response to the questions set forth in the Guidelines.
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	I am requesting that the identity of a fracturing fluid component qualify for non-disclosure as a trade secret.
	Chemical Family associated with the Chemical Constituent Fatty Acid Amine MS-1000
	In order to claim that the identity of the fracturing fluid component is entitled to protection as a trade secret, I understand that I must provide specific information regarding each of the questions set forth in the MBOGC Trade Secret Guidelines. I have attached separate pages setting forth information in response to the questions set forth in the Guidelines.
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	Signature Greg Ruff, Manager of Environmental Compliance
	Print name and title
	APPROVED: X Yes No Bienature Title Date

PUBLIC REDACTED GUIDELINE RESPONSE STATE OF MONTANA

MS-1000

1. <u>Public Disclosure</u>: Rockwater's Product MS-1000 is a proprietary surfactant blend, the disclosure of which would cause competitive harm to Rockwater. Specifically, such disclosure would permit competitors to determine the precise chemical identity and composition of this proprietary product. Rockwater has carefully reviewed this product to ensure that only the components that represent trade secret components are protected. To Rockwater's knowledge, the confidential information (including the chemical name and CAS number) do not appear in any public source. In addition, this information has not been previously disclosed on the FracFocus database by Rockwater or, to Rockwater's knowledge, any other third party.

The identity of the confidential information and its use in Product MS-1000 has not been publicly disclosed by Rockwater or, to Rockwater's knowledge, anyone else: (i) pursuant to any federal, state, or local law or regulation; (ii) in any professional trade publication; or (iii) through any other media or publications available to the public or Rockwater's competitors. []

- 2. Safeguarding Steps: Rockwater has treated the exact chemical identity of its Product MS-1000 as a trade secret, and has taken (and continues to take) appropriate and required steps designed to ensure that no unauthorized disclosure of such information is made. Internally, Rockwater employees have been trained on the importance of protecting the company's confidential information and trade secrets. Further, information about the chemical composition of Rockwater's products is maintained []. Only employees who need to know such information are permitted access to this information. When such information must be disclosed externally, for example to complete a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) or to satisfy applicable regulatory requirements, it is disclosed pursuant to an executed Non-Disclosure Agreement. We understand that our customers similarly treat such information with the highest degree of confidentiality.
- 3. Other Regulatory Review: No other federal, state, tribal or local regulatory body has determined that the confidential information (including its use in Product MS-1000) is not entitled to protection from public disclosure or trade secret or confidential commercial information. To Rockwater's knowledge, the trade secret components do not require full disclosure under any applicable Federal laws. The OSHA Hazard Communication Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200) requires manufacturers to disclose on the SDS any hazardous components present at greater than 1.0% and for carcinogenic components at 0.1%. []
- 4. <u>Commercial Value</u>: In the process of developing MS-1000, the [] surfactant mixture(s) in MS-1000 work synergistically with the disclosed components on the safety data sheet when applied to a specific Wyoming crude oilfield to prevent asphaltene aggregation (sludge formation)

resulting from acid/crude oil interactions. [] Since every crude oil has unique characteristics, a universal chemical treatment is not possible and more niche products result for each oilfield. [] As a result, these products were [] as well as in an effort to provide specific results for downhole application issues [] Through the selection of raw materials, specific blend ratios, subsequent lab and field testing and commercialization we have generated core, proprietary chemistries that provide superior, cost-effective results for our clients. These novel chemistries provide a competitive edge for our group and helps to support further development to meet client and regulatory requirements. Disclosure of the trade secret components of Product MS-1000 would negatively impact Rockwater's competitive advantage in the marketplace, and would allow competitors to unfairly benefit from Rockwater's substantial investment of money, corporate resources, ingenuity, and product development. Development of a critical component of a production chemical requires a detailed knowledge of the product's properties, its interaction with other components of the same fluid and the formation being treated, as well as the safety and environmental factors attendant to such fluid. In carrying out its own development activities, Rockwater employs highly skilled and specialized personnel and has expended considerable sums of money to design and construct proper manufacturing facilities and processes. Rockwater has also benefited from years of selling this product and "lessons learned" from its loyal customers. These efforts have yielded a proprietary composition for Product MS-1000 that is both novel and unknown to the general industry. Disclosure of this information would unduly harm Rockwater's business and adversely impact the competitive advantage it has spent years to develop and cultivate.

5. Systems Approach: Rockwater has gone to appropriate lengths to protect its confidential information from public disclosure. The use of a "systems approach" would not adequately protect the confidentiality of the product formula in this instance. A trained person skilled in the art of product development for these types of chemical technologies could easily decipher which components are associated with Product MS-1000. A "systems approach" to disclosure would also give a trained person an acceptable concentration range to achieve the key performance requirements. A review of such public information would permit Rockwater's competitors to replicate Rockwater's technologies and to commercialize them, eliminating the value of Rockwater's commercial investment and providing a disincentive for future investment.

Table One Public Redacted Version

Product Name: MS-1000

Component	CAS Number	Concentration
Isopropanol	67-63-0	30 - 40
Methanol	67-56-1	1 - 5
Dodecylbenzenesulfonic Acid	27176-87-0	1 - 5
Surfactant Blend	Proprietary	1 - 10

Public Redacted Version

In the process of developing MS-1000, the [] surfactant mixture(s) in MS-1000 work synergistically with the disclosed components on the safety data sheet when applied to a specific Wyoming crude oilfield to prevent asphaltene aggregation (sludge formation) []. Since every crude oil has unique characteristics, a universal chemical treatment is not possible and more niche products result for each oilfield. As a result, these products were [] as well as in an effort to provide specific results for downhole application issues []. Through the selection of raw materials, specific blend ratios, subsequent lab and field testing and commercialization we have generated core, proprietary chemistries that provide superior, cost-effective results for our clients. These novel chemistries provide a competitive edge for our group and helps to support further development to meet client and regulatory requirements.